

REMARKS

With the present amendment, Applicants have amended claims 7, 8, 10, 11, 115, 116 and 135; canceled claims 1-6, 9, 110-114, 117-134 and 138-140; and added new claims 177-183. Applicants have also canceled previously withdrawn claims 12-109 and 141-176. Accordingly, claims 7, 8, 10, 11, 115, 116, 135-137 and 177-183 are now pending in this application. A two-month extension petition is submitted herewith.

With the present amendment, in order to expedite prosecution, Applicants have canceled without prejudice all rejected claims and have presented only the claims that were deemed allowable by the Examiner; namely, claims 3, 6-11, 114-116, 120 and 134-138. For ease of reference, Applicants provide the following claim correspondence table:

New Claim	Combined Claims
177	1, 2, 3
178	1, 2, 4, 5 and 6
179	1, 2 and 9
180	110, 111, 112, 113 and 114
181	110, 118 and 120
182	110, 118 and 134
183	110, 118 and 138

In addition to the above new claims, the dependencies of claims 7, 8, 10, 11, 115, 116 and 135 were changed to depend upon the rewritten allowable claims. The dependencies of original claims 136 and 137 remain unchanged.

In the Official Action, claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 110-113, 117-119, 121, 128, 129, 131, 132, 139 and 140 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,753,878 to Heirich et al. Claims 112-124, 126, 130 and 133 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being

unpatentable over Heirich et al. and U.S. Patent No. 6,664,968 to Ono. In addition, the Examiner has indicated that claims 3, 6-11, 114-116, 120 and 134-138 are merely objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants have accomplished the same results by presenting new claims 177-183, which include all of the limitations of the base claim and intervening claims as shown in the above table. Accordingly, Applicants submit that claims 7, 8, 10, 11, 115, 116, 135-137 and 177-183 are now in condition for immediate allowance which action is respectfully requested.

As it is believed that all of the rejections set forth in the Official Action have been fully met, favorable reconsideration and allowance are earnestly solicited.

If, however, for any reason the Examiner does not believe that such action can be taken at this time, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone Applicants' attorney at (908) 654-5000 in order to overcome any additional objections that may be present.

If there are any additional charges in connection with this requested amendment, the Examiner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 12-1095 therefor.

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Respectfully submitted,

By 

Jonathan A. David

Registration No.: 36,494

LERNER, DAVID, LITTENBERG,

KRUMHOLZ & MENTLIK, LLP

600 South Avenue West

Westfield, New Jersey 07090

(908) 654-5000

Attorney for Applicants